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10960 Beach Boulevard  
#505  
Jacksonville, Florida 32246  
February 15, 1999

Dr. Michael A. Friedman  
Acting Director, Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852

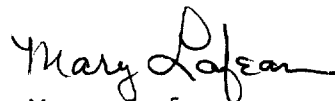
Dear Dr. Friedman:

Please approve stevia as a food additive in the category GRAS. Stevia, an herbal sweetener, has been used for hundreds of years without harm to anyone. The benefits this substance could have for millions of Americans far outweigh the cost of additional testing and documentation.

Please let me know what action you will take in this matter of vital importance to America's health.

Thank you.

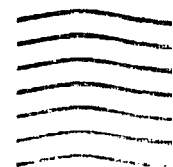
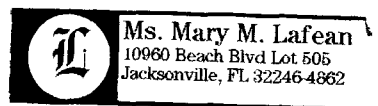
Sincerely,



Mary Lafean  
(904) 646-3411

98P-0509

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Rockville, MD 20852

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